

ORIGINAL REFERENCES

The following are the original references for names placed on the Official Index by the Ruling given in the present Opinion:

Palaeotriton Fitzinger, 1837, *Ann. wien. Mus. Naturgesch.* 2 : 186

Proteocordylus Eichwald, 1831, *Zoologia specialis* (3) : 165.

CERTIFICATE

We certify that the votes cast on Voting Paper (68)19 were cast as set out above, that the proposal contained in that Voting Paper has been duly adopted under the plenary powers, and that the decision so taken, being the decision of the International Commission, is truly recorded in the present Opinion No. 869.

R. V. MELVILLE

Secretary

W. E. CHINA

Assistant Secretary

International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature

London

10 October 1968

COMMENT ON THE PROPOSED SUPPRESSION OF *AMPHISBAENA*

MILDEI PETERS, 1878. *Z.N.(S.)* 1746

(see vol. 23, pp. 162-163; vol. 24, pp. 8, 209)

By R. V. Melville (*Secretary, International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature*)

When this application was first published (*Bull.* 23 : 162-163), the Commission had voted to suspend Article 23b pending the report of a Committee set up to clarify that Article. It was subsequently ascertained that the Commission had not the power to suspend a particular article of the Code in its general application. Thus, while the application was correctly drafted at the time when it was published, and the object sought by Dr. Gans could only have been attained by the use of the plenary powers, this is not the case now that Article 23b has been restored to vigour. It is, in fact, clear from Dr. Gans's application that *Amphisbaena mildei* Peters, 1878, is both a *nomen dubium* and a *nomen oblitum*. This fact was made clear by Dr. Gans in 1967 (*Bull. Amer. Mus. nat. Hist.* 134 (3) : 232, 237; 135 (2) : 70).

Since *A. mildei* is a *nomen oblitum* under Article 23b, it cannot present any threat to a junior synonym in its quality as a *nomen dubium*. The only action that the Commission is called upon to take is to vote whether or not to enter the name on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Names in Zoology. No exercise of the plenary powers is in question. Dr. Gans approves of this presentation of his case.